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## FEED THE FUTURE – NUTRITION TANZANIA

Improving nutrition is central to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals. The persistence of chronic undernutrition (stunting) undermines progress toward food security, improved educational attainment, and better maternal and child health in Tanzania. Undernutrition is the greatest cause of under-five deaths in Tanzania and is estimated to cost the government 2.6 percent of GDP annually. This loss of revenue is mainly in the agriculture sector and is attributable to poor cognitive and physical development in early life caused by undernutrition.

According to the 2015-2016 Demographic and Health Survey, roughly a third of all children under five suffer from stunting in five Feed the Future food security focus regions (Dodoma, Iringa, Manyara, Mbeya, and Morogoro). Key factors driving undernutrition in these regions are the lack of diverse and quality diets at the household level, inadequate access to health services (including water, sanitation, and hygiene), and poor caring and feeding practices. Maternal anemia is another significant problem in Tanzania, with 45 percent of pregnant women affected.

As part of a comprehensive approach to nutrition under Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative, USAID/Tanzania focuses on reducing the prevalence of chronic undernutrition and maternal anemia through integrated health and agriculture programs and services at the district and community levels. USAID's nutrition programming is fully aligned with the Government of Tanzania's National Behavioral Change Communication Strategy and the new National Nutrition Strategy (2016-2020), awaiting final Cabinet approval.

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## FTF NUTRITION OVERVIEW

### FUNDING LEVEL

- Up to \$35 million over seven years (2011-2018)

### MAJOR PARTNERS

- Africare
- Counsenuth
- Deloitte

The nutrition project also works closely with other Feed the Future value chain activities.

### GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Focus regions:

- Dodoma
- Manyara
- Morogoro
- Iringa
- Mbeya

In addition to the five focus regions, these efforts also benefit Zanzibar.

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Key nutrition investments include strengthening civil society and institutions responsible for nutrition, scaling up social and behavior change efforts to improve infant and young child feeding practices, and increasing access to a diverse diet through nutrient-dense crops, value-added food processing, and fortified foods. Feed the Future also works to deliver improved nutrition services by strengthening existing platforms that link facilities to communities and improving delivery of evidence-based interventions like promotion of iron/folic acid supplementation for women and a minimum standard of acceptable diet among young women and children.

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of awareness among the public regarding available nutrition services.
- Need for improved multisectoral nutrition-focused legislation and coordination.
- Health facilities that lack the full range of available nutrition services, as well as strong ties with the communities they serve. Health service coverage is often sparse in remote areas.
- Shortage of nutritional specialists and health workers capable of providing nutrition services.

## IMPACT

- **Programmatic reach:** Over 1.3 million women of reproductive age and 930,000 children under five reached, achieving 97 percent of target population.
- **Improved nutrition:** Over one million children under five have received nutrition services.
- **Training:** 22,540 nutrition practitioners have received targeted training in the reduction of maternal anemia and childhood stunting.
- **Organizational strengthening:** Key capacity building has been conducted with the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre and the Centre for Counseling, Nutrition, and Health Care (COUNSENUTH), a leading Tanzanian civil society organization (CSO). At the subnational level, nutrition efforts are building a network of local government councils and over 30 CSOs to deliver targeted nutrition messages to households and 100 percent of women visiting clinics.